



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The State's Most Energy Efficient Homebuilders Recognized by E-Star Colorado™, ENERGY STAR® and Xcel Energy**

*The ENERGY STAR® 2003 New Millennium Builder Awards Presented to Six Colorado Builders Leading the Industry in Energy Efficient Construction*

**DENVER – October 7, 2003** – Energy efficient homes increasingly are proving to be good business for homebuilders, good investments for homeowners and good for the environment. Today, six of Colorado's top homebuilders were honored with the *ENERGY STAR® 2003 New Millennium Builder Awards* for their demonstrated commitment to energy efficient homes throughout the state. These winning builders have designed, constructed, and marketed top quality, high performing homes judged to be the best in the state.

E-Star Colorado™, a statewide non-profit that promotes energy efficiency in housing, together with ENERGY STAR for Homes, part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program, presented the *New Millennium Builder Awards* to this year's winning homebuilders in a ceremony at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce in downtown Denver.

Underscoring the important role that energy efficient homes play in the utility and business communities, Xcel Energy joined E-Star and ENERGY STAR as a sponsor of this year's program. Joe Blake, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, was the keynote speaker.

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In its third year, the *ENERGY STAR New Millennium Builder Awards* recognize and celebrate Colorado homebuilders who demonstrate a clear understanding of the positive effects of energy efficient construction on their businesses, customers and the state as a whole. The awards program is intended to show the building industry the benefits and advantages of constructing highly energy efficient homes.

“With the current strains on our energy supply and natural resources, it is more imperative than ever that all builders make energy efficient homes part of their day-to-day business practices,” said Megan Edmunds, director of E-Star Colorado. “To achieve a high level of energy efficiency, a home has to be built in a systematic way from its inception through completion,” Edmunds explained. “If enough builders do that, it helps ease some of the strain on our resources and in the big picture that has a positive impact on all of us. Simply put, our New Millennium Builders are real heroes and we are extremely proud of the incredibly important work they do. This year, as always, we are thrilled to honor their efforts with the *New Millennium Builder Awards*.”

The *2003 New Millennium Builder Awards* were presented in six categories to the following homebuilders:

- ? *Front Range Production Builder* – Aspen Homes of Colorado, Inc., based in Windsor
- ? *Denver Metro Production Builder* – Engle Homes Colorado, a division of TOUSA Homes, Inc.
- ? *Denver Metro Custom Builder* – Kurowski Development Co, based in Littleton
- ? *Greater Colorado Custom Builder* – Balanced Construction Inc., based in Montrose
- ? *Affordable/Attainable Builder* – Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, based in Denver
- ? *Front Range Specialty Builder* – Wonderland Hill Development Company, based in Boulder

“These builders understand that by constructing homes that use less energy, they are having a positive impact on Colorado’s environment and Colorado’s future,” said Patty Crow, the ENERGY STAR representative for Colorado. “Energy efficient homes like these are part of the system we are all trying to build to provide benefits to individual home owners and to our communities.”

Cynthia Evans, Xcel Energy state vice president, agrees and adds, "Building energy efficient homes makes good business sense in this day and age. Energy efficient home building helps conserve our natural resources, protects our environment and reduces our customers' energy bills. We are committed to encouraging energy efficient home building and pleased to support E-Star Colorado and the *New Millennium Builders Awards*. All of the award winners can take pride in setting an example for other home builders in our state."

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To qualify for the *New Millennium Builder Awards*, builders must have built new homes or renovated existing homes that meet or exceed the home energy rating standards of the EPA's ENERGY STAR for Homes program. This rating is a uniform and a comparative measure of energy performance, and can be thought of as a residential "miles-per-gallon" sticker. To receive the ENERGY STAR label, a home must undergo a third-party evaluation of its energy performance provided by E-Star's Home Energy Ratings. The EPA will issue an ENERGY STAR label that can be affixed to the residence's home upon receiving written verification of a home scoring 86 points or higher on E-Star Colorado's 0-to-100 point energy efficiency scale.

As was the case with the Awards in prior years, energy efficiency experts and professionals within the building, design and construction industries judged the entries. Entries are evaluated on criteria such as: innovative use of building processes or technologies to achieve energy efficiency; economic considerations; health considerations such as combustion safety and indoor air quality; moisture management techniques; features that enhance durability; the whole house systems approach; marketing and consumer education as well as the use of ENERGY STAR products.

"With homebuilders like this year's winners leading the way, the quality of construction in Colorado homes will continue to increase while the state's environment, quality of life, and hard-earned consumer dollars are preserved," Edmunds said.

### **About ENERGY STAR®**

ENERGY STAR for Homes is a national, voluntary program that develops partnerships with the home building industry to construct homes that use at least 30 percent less energy than required by the Model Energy Code. For further information, contact local ENERGY STAR® representative Patty Crow at (303) 312-6464, [crow.patty@epa.gov](mailto:crow.patty@epa.gov), or visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

### **About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy (NYSE: XEL) is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company with regulated operations in 12 Western and Midwestern states. Xcel Energy provides a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.7 million natural gas customers through its regulated operating companies. In terms of customers, it is the fourth-largest combination natural gas and electricity company in the nation. Company headquarters are located in Minneapolis. More information and energy saving tips are available at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com).

### **About E-Star Colorado™**

Founded in 1995, E-Star Colorado™ is a statewide non-profit that promotes energy efficiency in housing. The organization does so through its Home Energy Rating system and other initiatives for participants in Colorado's housing industry, including consumers, homebuilders, real estate professionals, code officials and utility companies throughout the state. More information on home energy efficiency, E-Star programs and a list of Raters who perform E-Star™ energy evaluations can be found at [www.e-star.com](http://www.e-star.com) or by calling (800) 877-8450.

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